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ABSTRACT

It has long been known that science centers and other science-rich institutions provide families, youths, and the entire public with rich out-of-school science education experiences. This report describes a survey designed to document the manner and extent to which science-rich institutions are helping schools and teachers in strengthening their science education programs. In Volume 1, the survey design is described along with patterns that emerged as a result of data analysis. Topics covered include the survey, informal science education institutions, available types of support for schools, teachers served by institutions of informal science education, extrapolation of data to a national sample, funding, diversity of schools and students served by science-rich institutions, barriers to informal science education, and a summary. Volume 2 presents the survey form and detailed data and is arranged into two appendices. Appendix 1 includes the survey and cover letter that were sent to potential participants of the study. Appendix 2 contains the complete set of graphs that represent the analysis of the survey data gathered. The graphs are keyed to sections III-IX of Volume 1. (PVD)

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